

**Amendments to the Claims:****Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method for producing a nonwoven fabric which has at least three fiber bundle layers comprising unidirectional reinforcing fiber bundles, the method comprised of:

feeding reinforcing ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundles together with thermoplastic resin fibers and arranging the reinforcing ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundles and the thermoplastic resin fibers together in one direction;

placing the resulting bundles together with the thermoplastic resin fibers in parallel to form a ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layer of unidirectional reinforcing fiber bundles together with the thermoplastic resin fibers;

stacking the ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layer with a ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layer of reinforcing ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundles together with the thermoplastic resin fibers so that the layers are different in directions of the bundles from each other; and

heating and pressing the ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layers stacked in layers to bond the ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layers to each other with the thermoplastic resin fibers, wherein the nonwoven fabric is produced.

8-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the first ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layer is arranged in a substantially weft direction, the second ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layer is arranged in a first substantially oblique direction, and the third ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layer is arranged in a substantially warp direction.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein additionally, the fourth ~~nonwoven~~ fiber bundle layer is arranged in a second substantially oblique direction, and the second substantially oblique direction is different from said first substantially oblique direction.